



MINUTES

Meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
A Public Agency

Friday, March 18, 2005
8:30 AM

Santa Barbara MTD Auditorium
550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

John Britton, Chair, Olivia Rodriguez, Vice Chair, Brian Fahnestock, Secretary,
David Davis, Director, Logan Green, Director

MTD EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager, Tiara Lakey, Executive Assistant to the Board and General Manager, Jerry Estrada, Assistant General Manager/Controller, David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations, Nick Di Napoli, Graphic Design, Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning and Compliance, Gary Johns, Manager of Operations

OTHERS PRESENT:

Students and staff from Santa Barbara Work Training Program (including David Kremer, Esther Aguilera, Case Manager, Jessica Simon, Matt Mc Peters, Dawn Pickard, Jordan Thlick and Marc Winston), Matt Van Horn

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Britton called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

2. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Britton noted that all members were present, with the exception of Director Green, who was expected to arrive at any moment. Director Green arrived at 8:34 AM (prior to item #6 of the agenda).

3. REPORT REGARDING POSTING OF AGENDA

The General Manager reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters, on the MTD website and mailed to the media of general circulation. At this time the General Manager also noted that today's public comment portion of the meeting would be filmed by staff from Santa Barbara Work Training Program.

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Chair Britton announced that the minutes from the March 2, 2005, Board meeting would be presented at the next Board meeting.

5. CASH REPORT

Director Davis moved to approve the cash report from February 22, 2005, through March 7, 2005. Vice Chair Rodriguez seconded the motion. Director Fahnestock asked about the payment to Santa Barbara Association of Governments (SBCAG). Jerry Estrada, Assistant GM/Controller responded that this was a pass through for the Clean Air Express, because we are their grantee. The motion passed unanimously.

THIS CONCLUDED THE CONSENT CALENDAR

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Students and staff from Santa Barbara Work Training Program, David Kremer, Esther Aguilera, Case Manager, Jessica Simon, Matt McPetters, Dawn Pickard, Marc Winston and Jordan Thlick commented on changes that they would like to see made to the current MTD Disabled Bus Pass. They stated that they would like to see the term "Disabled" changed to another term. Ms. Simon also requested that more service be provided to the San Marcos High School route, when the school lets out. Ms. Simon stated that the buses are too crowded at that time of day. The Board thanked the speakers for bringing their comments forward and stated that they are in support of the concept of this change. The Board then requested that staff provide the Board with options for a possible name change, including the cost and timing associated with this type of a change.

INTERMISSION

At 8:50 AM the Board took an intermission.

RETURN FROM INTERMISSION

At 8:55 AM the Board returned from intermission.

7. RESOLUTION 05-1 TO FILE A CLAIM WITH THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SBCAG) FOR TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT (TDA) FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006

The General Manager and Jerry Estrada, Assistant General Manager/Controller reviewed the resolution with the Board. Director Davis moved to approve Resolution 05-1 authorizing MTD staff to file a claim with SBCAG for allocation of TDA funds for fiscal year 2005-2006. Director Fahnestock seconded the motion. After some discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the resolution passed with 5 ayes.

8. RESOLUTION 05-2 IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 11, CLEAN-DIESEL BUSES FROM SANTA BARBARA BANK AND TRUST APPROVED ON MARCH 18, 2005

The General Manager reviewed the resolution with the Board. Director Davis moved to approve Resolution 05-2 authorizing MTD staff to execute payment in full with Santa Barbara Bank & Trust for the purchase of 11, clean-diesel buses. Director Fahnestock seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken and the resolution passed with 5 ayes.

9. LIABILITY INSURANCE

The General Manager reviewed staff recommendations for the renewal of MTD's liability insurance. Director Fahnestock moved to authorize the General Manager to renew liability insurance with a self-insured retention. Director Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. HEALTH INSURANCE

The General Manager reviewed staff recommendations for the renewal of MTD's staff health insurance for the following year, while continuing to seek a lower premium during that time. Vice Chair Rodriguez moved to authorize the General Manager to renew staff health insurance. Director Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

The General Manager and David Damiano, Manager of Transit Development and Community Relations updated the Board on the Valley Express service and stated that since the launch on March 1, 2005, 63 passengers carried has been the daily average. The General Manager noted that on Wednesday, March 16, 2005, fare collection began and there has not been a significant drop in passengers. The General Manager shared a letter from Victoria Pointer, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Buellton who had recently written her and stated how proud she is of MTD's accomplishments and congratulated MTD on the new service.

Mr. Estrada reported on the procurement relating to Calle Real and stated that staff is currently conducting reference checks on the proposals received. Mr. Estrada added that a recommendation to award a contract will be brought to the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Estrada also updated the Board on the status of the Student Pass Program with Brooks Institute of Photography and stated that a finalized agreement is in process and per the Board's instruction; it is similar to the My Ride Pass Program.

The General Manager reported that the Facilities Committee had recently met with Bob Westick, Manager of Easy Lift to discuss the possibility of Easy Lift moving their operations into a portion of MTD's headquarters at 550 Olive Street. During the Property Committee meeting it was agreed that MTD and Easy Lift's staff would need further research and discussion, before any recommendations would be brought before the Property Committee and Board.

The General Manger reported that Mr. Estrada and Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning and Compliance had recently attended FTA's Triennial Review Workshop. Mr. Estrada and Mr. Maas reported that they found this workshop beneficial in their preparation of FTA's upcoming Triennial Review of MTD.

At this time Chair Britton read a letter out loud that he had received from Ginger Gherardi Executive Director, Ventura County Transportation Commission. In this letter Ms. Gherardi thanked MTD for assisting South Coast Area Transit (SCAT) with buses during the recent loss of their CNG line. Ms. Gherardi also wrote that SCAT was able to resume service for their passengers, with MTD's invaluable assistance.

The General Manager and the Board discussed possible dates to hold an annual Board Workshop. The Board agreed that April 15, 2005, was a good date for all of the Board members. Director Fahnestock then requested that the Board review the agenda for the workshop at the next Board meeting.

Director Fahnestock also expressed a continued interest in the topic of Commuter Rail and sought the Board's opinion of his possible discussions with local officials on this topic. The Board agreed and temporarily appointed Director Fahnestock to the MTD External Affairs Committee.

The General Manager reported that she, Mr. Damiano, and Mr. Maas had recently attended a meeting of the Downtown Parking Committee to review the interactions between MTD and the Committee. Subjects discussed included the partnership between MTD and the City for the Early Implementation of the Crosstown Shuttle (utilizing City parking funds), downtown Santa Barbara Superstops, and various planning tasks performed by MTD.

12. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Facilities Committee met on March 8, 2005, to discuss Easy Lift (as described above in the General Manager's report).

13. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION-CLAIM REVIEW (MARYLINA MOBLEY)

The Board met in closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, conference with legal counsel (Anticipated Litigation) to discuss significant exposure of litigation between: Marylina Mobley (Claimant) vs. MTD (Agency). No action was taken.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 AM.